

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are presently pending in this application. Claims 2-4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by "Specification of the BLUETOOTH System Profiles Version 1.0B"(hereinafter "Profiles"). Claim 4 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Profiles in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,041,075 to Caushik.

With respect to the claims as amended herein, applicants submit that the cited art does not, singly or in combination, teach the elements of the pending claims, and accordingly request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

Rejection of Independent Claims 2 and 3 under § 102

Claim 2 stands rejected under § 102 as anticipated by Profiles. The Examiner contends that the cited art discloses the individual elements of the claim prior to the current amendment. Applicants again note that the cited art does not disclose automatic exposing of a remote device to an application through sockets via RFCOMM. In particular, pages 61-93 of Profiles pertain to the Service Discovery Application profile, which is implemented by a "BLUETOOTH-aware, user-level application ... for locating services." (Profiles, p. 70). The Service Discovery application is "a specific user-initiated application. In this aspect, this [Service Discovery Application] profile is in contrast to other profiles where ... [there is a] need to enable a particular transport service (e.g., RFCOMM, etc.) or a particular usage scenario..." (Profiles, p. 66). That is, the Service Discovery Application profile "is used to locate services that are available on or via devices in the vicinity of a Bluetooth enabled device. ... SDP is not directly involved in accessing services." *Id.* In other words, SDP, as described in the Service Discovery Application profile, is used only to discover the existence and gather information about available Bluetooth devices and services; it is not used in the actual connection and subsequent communications with those devices. Thus, there is no description in the Service Discovery Application Profile of a technique for automatically exposing a remote device to an application

through sockets via RFCOMM. Indeed, it appears that the “BLUETOOTH-aware, user-level application .. for locating services” is user-manipulated rather than automatic.

Similarly, pages 170-178 discuss the Serial Port Profile. This profile describes how Bluetooth devices can emulate a serial cable connection. But the description says nothing of automatically exposing a remote device to an application through sockets via RFCOMM, and in particular, does not describe the claim elements. Indeed there appears to be no mention in these pages of an interface to a transport layer of the computer.

Furthermore, although Applicants argue above that the cited art does not disclose individual elements of the claim, Applicants nevertheless have amended the claim to contain a further express element that is not disclosed by the cited art. In particular, the element of “in response to determining that the remote device is not a dial-up networking device, allowing the application access to the remote device through an interface to a transport layer of the computer” is not disclosed by the cited art.

The Examiner contends that Profiles discloses the element of “determining whether or not the remote device is a dial-up networking device” and further discloses the element of allowing the application access to the remote device through an interface to a transport layer of the computer if the remote device is not a dial-up networking device. The Examiner does not cite support in the prior art for each claim element individually, but rather cites collectively to the Generic Access Profile (Profiles, pp. 13-60), the Service Discovery Application Profile (pp. 61-93) and the Serial Port Profile (pp. 170-178). The Service Discovery Application and Serial Port profiles are discussed above and each describe particular functionality of a Bluetooth system. The Generic Access Profile “defines the generic procedures related to discovery of Bluetooth devices and link management aspects of connecting to Bluetooth devices.” (Profiles, p. 13). No single profile discloses the element of allowing the application access *in response to* determining whether or not the remote device is a dial-up networking device. More generally, although Profiles may disclose something about a determination of device type, and Profiles may disclose something about allowing access to an application, Profiles does not disclose the concept of allowing access to an application in response to a determination of device type in the manner recited by the claim.

Applicants have also amended claim 3, and the above arguments similarly apply.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 2 and 3.

Rejection of Claims 4 and 7 under § 112

Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under § 112 for failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner did not find support in the specification for the limitation “helper component” as used in the claims. Although verbatim support for claim elements is certainly not required by law, Applicants have amended the claims by replacing the phrase “helper component” with the phrase “transport service module” to simplify the issues. A transport service module is disclosed in the specification, for example, as RFCOMM. (See, e.g., Profiles, (incorporated by reference) at p. 66: “...the need to enable a particular transport service (e.g., RFCOMM, etc.)...”). In view of the amendments herein, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection for these claims.

Rejection of Claim 4 under § 102

Claim 4 also stands rejected under § 102 as anticipated by Profiles. Applicants contend that the cited art does not disclose every limitation of the claim as amended. In particular, the cited art does not disclose “determining automatically at the transport service module whether the remote BLUETOOTH device is a dial-up network device” or “automatically assigning at the transport service module an interface to the remote BLUETOOTH device.” Although the discussion above with respect to claims 2 and 3 also applies here, Applicants further note that a prior transport service module, such as a standard RFCOMM, is insufficient to enable the present claim. As stated in the specification: “RFCOMM is implemented as described in the [specification document], with *certain changes to effect the desired functionality*.” (Specification, p. 11, lns. 5-8, emphasis added.) A BLUETOOTH-aware transport service module as described by Applicants is therefore able to automatically detect the presence of a remote BLUETOOTH device (e.g., “examine the SDP database”, p. 12, line 3), determine if the remote device is a dial-up networking device (e.g., p. 12, line 4; p.13, line 14; p. 15, line 16) and assign an interface (e.g., p. 13, lns. 14-15; p. 14, lns. 16-17).

Furthermore, Applicants have amended claim 4 herein to contain express elements not disclosed by the cited art. In particular, each claim now contains a single element of performing

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some action *in response to* determining whether a device is a dial-up networking device. Additionally, the cited sections of Profiles do not disclose a technique for automatically routing an RFCOMM connection to an appropriate device type, or automatically assigning an interface to a remote BLUETOOTH device that appears to an application as a standard modem interface. For these reasons and those discussed above with respect to claim 2, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claim 4.

Rejection of Claims 5-9

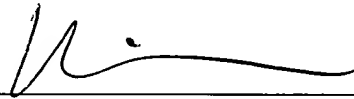
As claims 5-9 are dependent on claim 4, they each incorporate all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, each of claims 5-9 similarly contains the amended element of automatically assigning an interface to the remote BLUETOOTH device in response to determining whether the remote BLUETOOTH device is a dial-up network device, which element is lacking in the cited art as discussed above. Applicants therefore respectfully request the allowance of claims 5-9.

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CONCLUSION

The application is now considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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